



**STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**HARRIET SMITH WINDSOR, ED. D.
SECRETARY OF STATE**

September 17, 2008

Dear Fourth Grade Teacher:

The year 2008 marks the 220th anniversary of the ratification of the federal Constitution, the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Delaware Day, and the 7th year of the Department of State's Annual Fourth Grade Delaware Day Competition. Please accept my invitation to participate in this rewarding experience aligned with Delaware educational standards for Social Studies, English Language Arts, and Visual and Performing Arts.

The theme for this year's competition is citizen involvement. Participation provides students with an opportunity to learn about the Constitution, the role Delaware played in its writing and ratification, and enables students to express answers to questions in creative and innovative ways. Examples of student responses include composition of original poetry, rap songs, cheers, or lyrics to popular tunes chronicling stories of the evolution of the Constitution and its ratification. Over the years, students enhanced historical summaries by making hand drawn charts, diagrams, caricatures of historical figures, and even clay figures representing Delaware's signers. Other innovative applications include student created political cartoons, interviews with Delaware signers, newspaper stories, technological enhancements of panel displays, as well as, advice on historical matters.

Multiple classes may work on a single project, or individual classrooms may tackle the challenge independently. Upon receipt of your registration form, a free educational resource packet will be mailed to you from the Department of State.

The enclosed poster features examples of visual and narrative materials prepared by students during the 2007 competition. View <http://delawareday.delaware.gov> for examples of projects prepared in 2007. Last year 786 students participated. As of 2007, names of more than 4300 students appear on the Department's Delaware Day Honor Roll. This year I am hoping to increase participation significantly.

Recognizing that teachers and students devote a lot of time and effort to this annual competition, I present five awards, named in honor of Delaware's signers of the Constitution, to top projects. I award Honorable Mention Awards to qualified projects not receiving top honors. I will honor student and teacher participants at an Awards' Program in Dover at the Delaware Public Archives on Saturday, December 6, 2008.

As Delaware President Thomas Collins wrote in a message to the Ratification Convention meeting in Dover on December 4, 1787, the Constitution, "... is a subject of the first magnitude...", so please consider participating in this competition. I am looking forward to reviewing the work your students prepare in response to this year's competition questions.

Sincerely,

Harriet Smith Windsor, Ed.D.
Delaware Secretary of State